

## **ABSTRACT**

- This invention provides a short interfering hairpin RNA having the structure
- 5  $X_1$ -L- $X_2$ , wherein  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are nucleotide sequences having sufficient complementarity to one another to form a double-stranded stem hybrid and L is a loop region comprising a non-nucleotide linker molecule, wherein at least a portion of one of the nucleotide sequences located within the double-stranded stem is complementary to a sequence of said target RNA.